



May 30, 2003

**Pennsylvania man is charged with  
Internet auction fraud**

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**Ryan Craig allegedly auctioned non-existent merchandise over Internet  
auction sites, defrauding bidders out of at least \$77,000**

United States Attorney Margaret E. Curran has charged **Ryan J. Craig**, 20, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, with wire fraud, alleging that Craig engaged in a scheme to defraud users of Internet auction sites by posting for auction nonexistent merchandise. Craig allegedly conned his victims out of at least \$77,067 through fraudulent auctions.

U.S. Attorney Curran and Kenneth R. Jones, Inspector in Charge of the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, jointly announced a one-count information, which was filed on May 28 after Craig waived his right to have the evidence against him reviewed by a grand jury. A summons will be issued for Craig to appear in U.S. District Court, Providence, for arraignment on the charge.

The information alleges that Craig posted for auction non-existent merchandise, such as computers and cameras, on eBay and other Internet auction sites, using a succession of false names and screen names to conduct the auctions. Craig allegedly induced winning bidders to wire the amount of their bids plus shipping costs to coconspirators, including **Arthur A. Jordan**, of North Kingstown. The information alleges that Craig fraudulently represented that he would

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send the winning bidders the merchandise they had purchased once he had received payment and then ignored their requests for the goods and, subsequently, for refunds.

The information charges Craig with one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud. An information is merely an allegation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. Upon conviction, the statutory maximum penalty for conspiracy to commit wire fraud is five years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000 or twice the amount of gain or loss. Exact sentencing for any defendant convicted would be determined on the basis of federal sentencing guidelines, which take into account such factors as the specific nature and impact of an offense and a defendant's criminal background, if any.

In June 2002, Jordan, 34, of 505 Ten Rod Road, North Kingstown, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud, admitting his role in the auction fraud scheme. He is free on unsecured bond pending sentencing.

The **U.S. Postal Inspection Service** investigated the case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Dulce Donovan is prosecuting it.

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